

Weekly National Intelligence.

WASHINGTON: SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1852.

NO. 555.

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

The subscription price of this paper for a year is THREE DOLLARS, payable in advance.
For the long Sessions of Congress, (averaging eight months,) the price will be TWO DOLLARS; for the short Sessions ONE DOLLAR per copy.
A reduction of 20 per cent. (one-fifth of the full charge) will be made to any one who shall order and pay for, at one time, five copies of the Weekly paper; and a like reduction of 25 per cent. (one-fourth of the full charge) to any one who will order and pay for, at one time, ten or more copies.
No account being kept for this paper, it will not be forwarded to any one unless paid for in advance, nor sent any longer than the time for which it is so paid.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The following Letter is entitled to a prominent place in our columns, as being the production of a respected citizen of the United States now abroad, in a position about equidistant from the seat of this Government and the average of the distant States.

GENTLEMEN: The interest every where felt and expressed in the present condition and future prospects of his native land, whilst it gratifies the national pride of an American citizen in a foreign land, and makes him feel that it is no longer possible for the enemies of constitutional freedom to "hide its light under a bushel," at the same time most forcibly reminds him that mighty responsibilities and solemn duties are also pressing on every side. The increase in our territorial limits, population, and wealth is not more marked than the advance in our moral position and relative station among the great Powers of the earth. Whatever feelings are indulged towards us, contempt and indifference are no longer felt in any quarter. It is no figure of speech to say that the eyes of the world are upon us, as well those who fear as those who hope, and that every movement and every indication of purpose is watched with intense interest. Philosophical investigation into the nature of Republican Governments, abstract disquisitions in reference to political science, have given way before actual developments, and the anticipated movements of our mighty Republic. Theory and speculation stand silent, and wait for tangible results. Men of calm reflection and sober thought, all over the world, turn from the bubbles which are rising and bursting here and there on the surface, and keep their eyes and their thoughts steadily fixed upon our Western Republic. There, and nowhere else, they feel and they say, is the great question to be settled, the great problem of self-government to be solved.

Nothing is more marked and nothing more honorable to our country, and cheering to the heart of an absent American who loves his country and feels a deep interest in her true honor and glory, than the strong, universal, sincere tribute which is every where borne by all the friends of constitutional government and free institutions to the dignified, independent, able, and honest administration of our foreign and domestic affairs by those now in power in our General Government. The recent message of Mr. FILLMORE has been read with undisguised satisfaction and perfect approbation, not only by his countrymen, but by every true man who has an interest in our success and honorable standing among the nations of the earth. The whole course of his Administration, since the death of the honest and faithful old hero of "Buena Vista," has been watched with most uncommon interest for many reasons. The timid and doubting friends, and more particularly the zealous and earnest opponents of constitutional governments, have sought out with extreme diligence what they deemed (perhaps not untruly) the weakest points of our system. The expeditions to the Island of Cuba were pointed at and commented on as evidences of the reckless character of our people and of the utter inefficiency of our General Government to meet such cases. It was often more than hinted that these marauding expeditions were set on foot with the connivance and acquiescence, if not by the direct assistance, of the Government. The hope was most manifestly indulged in many quarters that the course of the Administration, through a pusillanimous fear of giving offence, would be such as must eventually bring disgrace upon our country in the eyes of the world, and demonstrate the inability of a Republic to perform its duties towards other nations by enforcing its own laws in the face of local popular excitement. But the proclamation of the President; the firm tone of his official documents; his prompt removal of official delinquents; the evident sincerity of his efforts, and his entire good faith and anxious desire to fulfill all obligations, followed, as they have been, by the simple, distinct, and satisfactory statements in his messages, have entirely removed every ground of suspicion, and every accusation of dereliction of duty. At the same time, the kind sympathy which he extends to misled ignorance and misguided youth, whilst condemning the reckless leaders and skulking originators, shows that his heart is in the right place, and that his feelings are with suffering humanity every where. Whatever difficulties may be in the way of the entire prevention and suppression of such attempts, all men now admit that so long as MILLARD FILLMORE is at the head of our Government, no want of good faith and of honest and energetic effort will be discovered, and that in all matters touching our foreign relations the just rights and claims of others upon us will be acknowledged with the same promptness as our rights and honor will be maintained with them.

The expectations, I will not say hopes, which were excited in the same quarters, in reference to the domestic apple of discord, and the anticipations which were expressed that our glorious Union must be dissolved and our Confederacy scattered to the winds, have been entirely subdued and surrendered by the unshrinking firmness and impartial administration of the laws of the land; which, fearing nothing but dereliction of duty, seeking nothing but its path, and finding the controlling public sentiment in the laws constitutionally enacted under its sanction, has given supremacy to law, and defeated the purposes of disorganizers and disunionists in every section of our land. The honest Magistrate who, in the midst of popular excitement or party fury, has the moral courage to stand at his post, fearless of consequences to himself, and to maintain the Laws and the Constitution of his country, renders as true a service, and is entitled to as much honor, as the hero who beats back the invader from its shores.

The point on which the foreign caviller now hangs, when speaking of our Republican Government, is its probable perpetuity. It may be a good Government for you, but it cannot last, is the concluding hope, through which we safely pass, and every threatening danger we avoid or escape, strikes down some cherished expectation on one side, and gives new courage and increased confidence to the friends of liberty throughout the world.

I can but allude to the proud attitude which our Government assumed in the celebrated letter from Mr. Webster to Mr. Hulsemann, and the response

which it met with in every American heart in every quarter of the globe. Based upon the Jeffersonian doctrine of "honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none," it proclaimed to the world our determination to assert and maintain the right to free, fully, fearlessly; to regard our neutral relations secretly, but to think, to feel, and to act within those limits without the fear of giving offence to any potentate or any earthly power. It was the language of a young giant feeling his strength, but determined to "use it like a giant." May we never be bewitched, as the gristle hardens into the bone, to depart from the simple rule of our youthful days.

What I would say is, that the administration of Mr. Fillmore, whilst it has exhibited ability, sound judgment, prudent action, honest purpose, and independent and fearless determination, has raised our country and its institutions abroad, in the estimation of the thoughtful and anxious friends of free institutions, based on the popular will, maintaining the same position as the average of the distant States.

What I would say is, that the administration of Mr. Fillmore, whilst it has exhibited ability, sound judgment, prudent action, honest purpose, and independent and fearless determination, has raised our country and its institutions abroad, in the estimation of the thoughtful and anxious friends of free institutions, based on the popular will, maintaining the same position as the average of the distant States.

What I would say is, that the administration of Mr. Fillmore, whilst it has exhibited ability, sound judgment, prudent action, honest purpose, and independent and fearless determination, has raised our country and its institutions abroad, in the estimation of the thoughtful and anxious friends of free institutions, based on the popular will, maintaining the same position as the average of the distant States.

THE MEXICAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

We have already mentioned the arrival at San Diego, on the Pacific, of two of the Boundary Surveying parties, who were prosecuting their labors on the river Gila, somewhere about midway between the Rio Grande and the Pacific, but who were compelled to abandon their work and hasten to some uninhabited country to avoid starvation. From letters from members of one of the parties (Mr. GRAY, the chief Surveyor) the following passages are extracted, dated San Diego, January 10th:

"On the morning of the 8th instant we encamped at this place. On the 29th of September last the Commissioner, Mr. BARTLEY, and our party parted at Santa Cruz, in Sonora, he starting for Magdalena and other places to procure supplies, if possible, and we to retrace our way back to the encampment near the head of the San Pedro river, and from thence to push immediately on and prosecute the survey of the line along the Gila, from a point most approximate to where the western boundary of New Mexico might strike. A scanty supply of simply the absolute necessities of life (beef and flour) being procured, the party, without an escort or armed protection, while prosecuting the field labors, to encounter hostile bands of Indians, some of whom our own troops were at the moment pursuing, and those of Mexico likewise, and to survey and pass through unexplored regions, seemed somewhat hazardous and uncertain as to the accomplishment of the object in view. Still the anxiety of the Commissioner and the Surveyor to prevent further delay, and to push forward with every possible dispatch that portion of the work which the Mexican Commission was ready and waiting for us to carry on, and which by joint decision had been agreed upon, determined us to enter a risk of defeat in its execution. The season of the year was, however, the most propitious: fine clear weather, without rain, and the time when grass and water, so essential to the preservation of animals, were most favorable.

"On the 24th of October we reached the San Pedro river from Santa Cruz, and early next morning the camp was struck, and the party, numbering some thirty-nine, including assistants and laborers and some five Mexican *arrieros*, were on the march for the Gila river. On the 9th October we reached the stream just below the San Carlos branch, and the next day commenced the survey and demarcation of the boundary upon the ground. A monument of stone was erected at a prominent position, and connected with the survey on the river, to mark its beginning. The survey now progressed with every possible degree of accuracy which our means and facilities admitted of.

"On the 24th day of December the line had been run and marked some three hundred and fifty miles, and within sixty miles of the mouth of the Gila, where the survey was to end. Monuments were erected of stone, large and durable, with appropriate marks and inscriptions, hermetically sealed, deposited beneath. Triangulations, surveys, and reconnoissances sufficient for all the purposes called for in the treaty have been made of this part of the line.

"The Commissioner's determination when we separated in September was to return as soon as he had procured provisions, and to join us somewhere about the Pimo village. We have heard nothing of him since, except indirectly, and this was that he had arrived at Guaymas, on the Gulf, and would be up in the next steamer, which is daily expected from below.

"It will be five or six weeks before our animals will have recruited sufficiently to enable us to return. The survey made and completed, including the running and marking the line for some three hundred and fifty miles along the Gila, (which has proven itself to be most important in many ways, and of which I will give you a more detailed account, together with some seeds of various kinds as samples of the rich productions of portions of the valleys along the river,) has been as dangerous and difficult, if not more so, than any other portion of the whole boundary.

"It was only when all others had been compelled to leave the work, and were pushing for the garrison which was supposed to exist at the mouth of the Gila for provisions, and the express came from Col. CRAIG and Lieut. WHIFFLE of their being obliged to push on to San Diego, advising of the disappointment in not getting supplies, the abandonment of the post at the junction of the Gila and Colorado, the hostility of the Indians, and our provisions being reduced to so low a stand, just giving us time for rapid marches to get in, that Mr. GRAY stopped the line, marking properly the spot, and pushed on here with the party. The assistants and men, with hardly an exception, I am happy to say, did their duty. All arrived in excellent health, and the party comparatively sustained but little loss to the Government in the expedition. The names of the assistants of this immediate party that came through were Messrs. J. H. FROST, first assistant; MALCOLM SEATON, sub-assistant; J. STEELE, W. BARNES, and T. SCOTT, ditto. At the Pimo village we were joined by Mr. J. BULL, first assistant, and Mr. W. A. TAYLOR, sub-assistant."

SMITHSONIAN LECTURES.

In the programme of the Smithsonian Lectures for the present winter a Course was announced under the title of "The Greek Poets." The six lectures that gentleman at the time assigned to his lecture, prevented the immediate fulfilment of his engagement. We are happy, however, to state that the lectures may be expected during the next winter.

The absence of Prof. SILLIMAN for a few days, during his course afforded an opportunity for the two lectures which Prof. FELTON delivered last month. These lectures were received with great favor. They were learned, graceful, and seasonally furnished with the true "Attic salt." We have been furnished with the following synopsis of them:

LECTURE FIRST.

The subject of the first lecture was the Dramatic entertainments of the Athenians. The lecturer first described the representations which were a part of the religious festivals, occurring annually, and lasting several successive days. The time was the spring, when the city was crowded with visitors from the allied and tributary States, and from other parts of the world. The Dionysiac Theatre was of immense size, open at the top, built into the side of the Acropolis for security and economy. It was sometimes used for other purposes, and was large enough to hold nearly the whole free population of Athens. The lecturer described its structure. The stage machinery and theatrical properties were very various; personages were introduced from above and from below. Scenes were changed as readily as on the modern stage. The representation was under the charge of the magistrate, to whom the pieces were submitted for his approbation. The pieces were performed in the day time, the spectators hurrying early in the morning to secure their places.

The drama grew out of an older species of lyrical entertainment, and consisted of dialogue superadded to the chorus. The structure of a tragedy was simple, but the parts required to be artfully adjusted to each other. The actors were required to present the personages of the drama intellectually, but to the eye. Their persons were enlarged by high-soled buskins, by padding, by costumes, and by masks; so that the incongruity that is sometimes observed on the modern stage, between the personage and his dramatic representative, did not occur.

Having briefly pointed out the particulars which distinguished an ancient representation from a modern, the lecturer proceeded to sketch the characters of the three great tragedians, *Æschylus*, *Sophocles*, and *Euripides*. Next, to illustrate the average character of a Greek tragedy, the *Ajax* of *Sophocles* was selected. No doubt the greatest plays of this poet are the three on the fortunes of the house of *Edipus*—the *Edipus Tyrannus*, the *Edipus Coloneus*, and the *Antigone*. But these are so closely connected that an analysis of one would be defective without the other two.

The subject of the *Aias* or *Ajax* is drawn from the legends of the Trojan war. The story of the hero was connected with the early traditions of Attica. In bravery he stood next to *Achilles* himself. But he had a fatal defect of character, an overbearing self-confidence, which drew upon him the heavy wrath of the heavenly powers. Herein lay the motive-power that slowly but surely brought on the tragic catastrophe. He has captured a Phrygian princess, *Tekmessa*, who becomes his wife and bears him a son. After the death of *Achilles* he claims the divinely bestowed arms of the hero; but they are adjudged to his rival *Odysseus*. Indignant at this, he resolves to slay his rival and the sons of *Atreus*; but *Athena*, whom he has offended, smites him with madness, and turns his phreny upon the flocks and herds and his keepers. Waking from the delusion under which he has acted, his haughty spirit is so stung by the consciousness of disgrace, that he resolves on suicide. These are the outlines of the story, as handed down by the old epic poets, and dramatically handled by *Sophocles*. The manner in which *Sophocles* employed these materials was next discussed, and the distribution of the parts among the actors described. Some of the resemblances in manner, sentiment, imagery, and condensed force of expression between *Shakespeare* and the Greek tragedians were alluded to. He was declared to be the most classical of dramatists, because the highest in genius and the truest to man and nature. *Shakespeare* and the Greeks should be read together, as each other's complement.

The lecturer concluded the analysis by reading two passages. First, the speech of *Tekmessa* to *Aias*, in which she endeavors to dissuade him from his purpose of suicide. And, second, the soliloquy of *Aias*, just before he slays himself by falling upon his sword. The former, it was remarked, shows the poet's intimate knowledge of *Homer*, being partly imitated from the tender and pathetic address of *Andromache* to *Hector*. The latter was nearly as celebrated on the Athenian stage as the soliloquy of *Hamlet* on the English; though differing in tone. These passages were translated into twelve syllable iambic lines, in order to represent more closely the iambic trimeters of the original.

The lecturer next proceeded to comedy. Having discussed the general laws of the comic stage, and the facts of human nature on which its representations are founded, the lecturer proceeded to give a sketch of the origin and progress of Attic comedy, and the principal subjects handled by its writers. The philosophical speculations of the times, tending to *Atheism*; the quips and quirkies of the sophists, and their dangerous immoralities carried into the affairs of the State; a witty travesty of the tragedies, with short allusions constantly occurring to particular persons and characters; political events and popular phrenzies, like the madness which led to the Sicilian expedition; schemes of revolution and reform; wild and extravagant speculations of every kind; projects of universal annexation, and intervention in other people's affairs, were dramatized with infinite wit and unparalysed ridicule. Public men were brought upon the stage by name, and by the aid of costume and portrait-masks dramatically represented. These were the principal features of the old comedy. In the course of time the restraints of law were laid upon its license, and in the middle comedy public character ceased to be brought out by name. The new comedy dealt only in general characters, representing classes, and gathered its materials from careful observation of contemporary life and manners.

The lecturer here delineated the poetical character of *Aristophanes*, and briefly sketched the subjects of his remaining plays. To illustrate more closely his style of handling the projects of the speculating reformers, an extended analysis was given of the piece entitled the *Ecclesiazusai*, or *Women in Congress* assembled. It was shown that questions of political change or reform had been discussed from *Protagoras* to *Plato*; and that probably the question of woman's rights was freely treated in the political circles of the saloons, after *Aspasia* had introduced into Athenian society greater license of intercourse and more liberty of conduct among the women. The justice of excluding women from political influence was questioned; and schemes were put forth from time to time for setting this matter right. When the play in question was represented—in the midst of the harassing war in Asia Minor, about B. C. 394—*Athenians* appeared to have been the headquarters of the female philosophers and politicians; and their discussions form the subject of the play, which comprehends all the schemes of communism and socialism that had ever suggested themselves to the teeming brains of the ancient or the not very teeming brains of the modern reformers. The play represents a conspiracy formed by

women to usurp the Government. It is set on foot by *Aspasia*, who had formerly lived near enough to the law to overhear the debates; and she is seized with a strong desire to harangue the assembly on the welfare of the State. The constitution of Athens was at this time democratic; its principle universal suffrage, *sans censure*. The meetings of the assembly were held early in the morning. The plan adopted was to steal their husbands' clothes before they awoke, put on false beards, re-appear to the *Prætor*, and pass a decree to transfer the Government to the women. To learn the art of debate, and the practice themselves in swearing manly instead of feminine oaths, they held a *preliminary caucus*. The projected coup d'état is successfully executed. They proceed to the assembly disguised in bloomers, and hurry the revolutionary decree through the preliminary stages to what may be called its third reading. Meantime the husbands begin to bestir themselves; and as their wardrobes were not overstocked with spare garments, they were reduced to a serious embarrassment. There is no help for it; they open their wives' garments as well as they can, open their doors, peer out into the street, and, one after another come forth. *Suppose*, the husband of *Praxagora*, is first seen emerging in a pair of woman's boots, and a short yellow petticoat. Another citizen meets him, and an amusing dialogue takes place between them. At length a third citizen comes in, from the assembly, and gives account of the new measures, describing the manner in which the popular orators, who usually had the ear of the people, were hustled out by the "mob so multitudinously white," when they undertook to set up an opposition. The law is proclaimed and the citizens obey. *Praxagora* is placed at the head of the new order of things. She is allied upon by her constituents to *define her position*, with this difference, that the call is made after and not before the election. She complies, and proceeds to lay down a platform, the leading principles of which are community of goods; community of women; the children to be considered and educated as the children of the State; no more courts, no more jails, and no more crimes; the halls of justice to be converted into feasting saloons for the great social body, and so on, each supported by precisely the same arguments as are used by the Fourierites and Socialists of our own age; not a new reform, or a new principle, or a new argument has been invented by one of them. The Lady President issues her edicts with as much simplicity and energy as a new President of a French Republic. The streets are soon crowded with people, bringing pots, kettles, and all kinds of household stuff to the common stores. One sturdy citizen only refuses to obey, but insists on having his share in the grand banquet with which the reformation is to be inaugurated. The play closes with a change of scene, exhibiting a superb dining room, with long tables loaded with every luxury, crowded with the members of the regenerated society. The feast is described by a single word, filling ten or a dozen lines, and compounded or rather agglutinated of the names of all the dishes on the table, so as to represent philosophically, what I call *philanthropically*, the solidarity of society.

LECTURE SECOND.

The second lecture opened with a comparison between the Greek tragedians and *Shakespeare*, and some remarks on the classical drama of France. Then *Aristophanes* was compared with the modern writers for the comic stage, especially *Molière*, who illustrates well the witty and humorous side of the Aristophanic drama, but sustains no comparison with the Athenian in breadth of view, in lyrical spirit, and public aims, in infinite and unending variety. The French comedy for the last twenty years, in the works of the first class of authors like *Scribe*, in fitness of expression, keenness of political allusion, in general bearing upon social manners and circumstances, and the characters of the contemporary world, is an excellent parallel to the Athenian comic stage; but in high poetic qualities even here the parallel ceases.

The character and fragments of *Menander* were next discussed. The beauty and propriety of his style, the skill with which, like his master *Theophrastus*, he caught the humors of society, the pith of his sayings, and the depth of his observation, made him a universal favorite among his countrymen. These qualities were illustrated by several selections from the remaining fragments of his plays.

The lecturer next proceeded to describe the general character of the literature of the Alexandrian age, mentioning and characterizing the principal poets down to the seventh century. The state of Athens, in a literary point of view, during this period, was also described. The influence of the municipal institutions, the schools of philosophy, the conflicts between christianity and paganism, and the popular tendencies of the former, were touched upon. The writings of the early fathers, and the effects of the ritual of the Greek church, were alluded to.

The lecturer then proceeded to give a general view of the state of the Greek language and poetry during the Byzantine period, which lasted until the capture of Constantinople and the conquest of Greece by the Turks in the middle of the fifteenth century. The degradation of the state in Byzantium, and the attempts of the ecclesiastics to put it down, first by anathemas, and secondly by getting up dramatic entertainments on sacred subjects in the churches, called *Mysteries* and *Miracle plays*—which in all the countries of Europe precede the modern drama—were treated at some length. The hymns of *Synesius*, the Bishop of Ptolemais at the end of the fourth century, were noticed, and translations from them read. It was stated that they contain few passages of vigorous imagination, and are not marked by much felicity of expression or clearness of thought; but they are the outpourings of a pure heart, filled with love of God, and delighting in endless ascriptions of love and glory, and finally vanishing beyond all mortal comprehension into a golden-glowing mist of Neo-Platonic and supersubstantial transcendentalism.

The lecturer next gave an account of the poetical works of *Paul the Silentiary*, an official at the court of the Byzantine emperor, towards the end of the sixth century. Translations of two of his poems were read. *George the Pithidian*, a poetical chronicler in the seventh century, was then characterized. The effects of the iconoclastic fanaticism, and the violent feuds between the eastern and western churches, were described, together with the decay of literature and the degeneracy of the language. The literary character of the twelfth century, as exhibited in the works of *Manasses*, *Tzetzes*, and *Theodore Prochiron*, was next discussed; the writings of the last named were criticized at some length, and passages from them read. He was chiefly remarkable for having written the first poem published in modern Greek. This age was the age of *Anna Komnena* and the literary circle assembled in her palace, the most brilliant phenomenon that the writers adopted either the ancient Greek language, and wrote that either according to the principles of accent or of quantity, or the modern Greek wholly by accent: here is the precise point where the old and the new come together. Some account was then given of the condition of Athens, particularly under the *Dukes* of the house of *Brenne*, and the *Catalonian*, *Argones*, and *Florantine* houses, from the thirteenth to the middle of the fifteenth century. This dukedom presented a faint medieval reflex of the former prosperity of Athens. Its comparatively flourishing condition of the former "mother of arts and arms, the eye of Greece," was recognized in western Europe, in the dawn of modern poetry, and suggested to *Dante*, *Chaucer*, and *Shakespeare* the title of *Duke of Athens*, which they bestow on the ancient King *Theseus*. The conquest by the Turks finally introduced the reign of barbarism over these classic regions.

The lecturer proceeded to describe the condition and character of the unsubdued mountain tribes in the neighborhood of Olympus and Pindus, their poetic sensibility and ready talent at versification. The modern Greek language is founded essentially on the ancient, though it has adopted the modern inflections, and has been corrupted by foreign admixtures—by Slavonian, Turkish, and Italian elements; it has, however, been improved and purified by writers of the last half century. The language as spoken by the *Klepts* and *Armatolos* was less exposed to foreign influence than any other of the seventy dialects spoken in Greece in the day of her degradation, though the ancient structure was broken down. The poetical compositions of these tribes, not written by them, but preserved in the memory, and first collected by *Paulari*, are the most original, striking, and characteristic part of the modern Greek literature. They give a vivid picture of their manners, customs, and superstitions, and often remind us of the heroic age as it appears in the poems of *Homer*. To illustrate the character of these orally-transmitted songs, translations of several of them were read. The lecture closed with a *Chian* ballad, on the same subject as the *Leones* of *Danger*, viz. a ride by night of the living with the dead. The Greek poet manages the story in a manner quite different from that of the German, with more vigour and more startling force. He seizes upon the main idea, and hurries to the conclusion as if he thought a ghost were after him. It is thus seen that the Greek language and poetry are not dead. Besides the influence they have had on all modern culture, the language still lives, and has a poetry of its own—fresh, vigorous, racy as the popular poetry of any European nation. It is admirably adapted to eloquence and literary composition, although it has lost the variety and flexibility it possessed in the ancient days of Athens. With the reviving prosperity of the Greek nation we may expect to behold the ancient flow of letters and art, and something of the ancient excellence in them, again spring up on that classic and consecrated soil.

FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, FEBRUARY 12, 1852.

We have not been favored since the date of my last, three days ago, with any event that particularly amuse or astonishes Paris, or that would particularly amuse your readers; and had I not been awake, and afterwards kept awake, two hours before day, by the rolling of carriages beneath my window, returning from a grand rout and ball given by the M. DE ST. ARNAUD, the Minister of War, whose hotel is in my immediate neighborhood, I think that I should have allowed this day's mail to leave without my letter. At 10 o'clock A. M. the *Monteur* came to my relief as I was turning the leaves of my note-book, in considerable perplexity, to find a subject to commence my letter withal. The conclusion, as frequently happens with us Paris correspondents, was already written. The following document, a circular of M. DE PERSIGNY, Minister of the Interior, addressed to the prefects of the eighty-six departments, and published in the official journal of to-day, I consider worth preserving, as illustrative of the manner in which the actual Government, which so loudly asserts that it relies for support, as it founds its origin, upon the free expression of the people's will, which pretends to the glory of having restored universal suffrage in France, understands universal suffrage in practice. It is the best official exposition of "the sentiments" of the Prince Louis NAPOLEON in writing, in black and white, that we have had. We have had it in blue—the bunged eyes and bruised faces by the fatal and cruel *assauts* in 1849 and 1850; we have had it in red, too—witness the blood spilled upon the boulevards of Paris, &c. What would the people of the United States and of England, the only two important countries of the world where anything like universal suffrage is enjoyed, say if a "paternal Government" were to undertake so summary a direction of the expression of the people's will at a general election? Here is the document:

"PARIS, FEBRUARY 11, 1852.

"MONSIEUR LE PRÉFET: You have been informed, by the circular of my honorable predecessor, of the line of conduct which you are to pursue at the coming elections. "It is not, as under preceding Governments, by clandestine influence, which debases men's characters and degrades their consciences; that you have to employ your action. Under the legitimate Government of the elect of the people the time of intrigues and parliamentary corruption is passed. What you have to do at present you will do openly and before the world. "What is, in fact, the political situation? The French people has given to the Emperor the mandate of making a Constitution on certain determined bases; to form a Ministry dependent only on the Executive power; to create a Senate selected from amongst the illustrious men of the country; to organize a Council of State formed of the principal political capacities; and, finally, to convocate a Legislative body to be elected by universal suffrage. By a single vote, clear, simple, and understood by all, the people consequently has itself created all the public powers; and there only remains for it, in order to terminate its work, to name deputies to the Legislative body. "This second vote of the people, although infinitely less solemn than the first, has, however, its importance. The new Constitution undoubtedly does not permit those vain parliamentary agitations which have so long paralyzed the forces of the people; but it is not sufficient to have rendered that regime powerless for evil; it is necessary to make the Government powerful to do good. But good cannot be done at present, except on one condition; and that is, that the Senate, the Council of State, the Legislative body, and the Administration be, with the Chief of the State, in perfect harmony of ideas, sentiments, and interests; for it is unity of views in the public powers which alone constitutes the strength and grandeur of nations. "In the elections now coming on the French people has consequently an important part to play. But on that occasion what would not be its embarrassment without the intervention of the Government? How could eight millions of electors come to an understanding to distinguish, amongst so many candidates worthy of notice for many various reasons, the one to be elected? The Government, of the same spirit, devoted to the same interests, and alike disposed to complete the popular victory of December 20? It is, consequently, important that the Government should enlighten the electors on this subject. As it is evidently the desire of the people to finish the work which it has commenced, the people must be enabled to discern who are the friends and who are the enemies of the Government which has just been founded. "In consequence, Monsieur le Préfet, adopt measures for making known to the electors of each district of your department, by the intermediation of the various agents of the Administration, by every means which you may deem advisable, according to the feeling of the localities, and, if necessary, by proclamations posted up in the communes, the candidate whom the Government of LOUIS NAPOLEON considers best calculated to aid it in its work of reparation. "I recommend you, above all, Monsieur le Préfet, to place the interests of the State above all personal questions. The Government does not care about the previous political career of the candidates who frankly and sincerely accept the new order of things; but it calls on you, at the same time, not to hesitate to warn the populations against those whose known tendencies are not in the spirit of the new institutions. "It is well understood, besides, that you are not to do anything which can embarrass or trammel in any way the exercise of universal suffrage. All candidates ought to be allowed to come forward freely; and the Prince-President would consider the honor of his Government attainted if the slightest impediment was thrown in the way of free voting. "Receive, Monsieur le Préfet, the assurance of my most distinguished consideration. F. DE PERSIGNY."

The Ministerial journals, especially the *Patrie* and the *Pays*, have been for the last fortnight familiarizing the public mind to the open assumption by Government of the right to dictate its choice to the people. If the people should be sufficiently ill-informed to elect to the legislative corps men opposed to, or even lukewarm in their support of the Government, "all will have to be done over again."

The article had just before been glorifying the results of the coup d'état of the 24th of December. The list of the Government candidates, which during the last fortnight has been laboriously preparing, has not been published in the *Moniteur*, and will not be. The more efficient mode of publication in ministerial provincial journals is adopted. For instance, a journal of the department of the *Loiret*, under date of the 10th instant, contains the following notice of the guidance of "the sovereign people" in the elections of the 20th of February:

"Candidates of Government: M. M. LAGAVE, Mayor of Orleans, and MACDONALD, Duke of Tarento. "It appears certain that the various candidatures which have already been announced, or which were to be announced in the two electoral districts of the *Loiret*, retire here the names adopted by Government and supported by the Administration."

The object of Government is to obtain, by straining every nerve of Executive influence, not a mere or large majority of deputies to the legislative corps, but the whole body. The wish is to obtain, as an eloquent corollary to the vote of the 20th December, a Chamber of Deputies unanimously devoted to the person and policy of the President. It would not surprise me if they almost succeeded. I can believe in the use of any means, by the elected of the 20th December, likely to promote that end; and I can believe in any effect of those means upon the electors of the 20th of December. The oath of "fidelity to the President" will prevent nearly all the noble men of the vanquished parties from seeking seats in the Assembly. Executive influence will almost infallibly effect the failure of such as get over these scruples of conscience; I caught *Deputés* to say of *Paris*. The *Deputés* publishes the following letter of *LAMARTE*, declining to run for a seat in the Legislative Corps. It is addressed to a provincial elector:

"Mr. Editor: Certain honorable citizens having done me the honor to write to me asking if I would offer myself among the number of the candidates for election to the Legislative Corps, let me borrow the publicity of your journal to thank my fellow-countrymen, and to declare that I will not accept any candidature. Receive, Mr. Editor, the assurance of my high consideration. F. DE PERSIGNY."

The French Academy is less quarantary, between the conflicting councils of dignity, indignation, and discretion, as to what course to pursue touching the discourses of M. MONTALEMBERT and GUZOT, of which I spoke in my last. The Academy is accustomed to print in pamphlet form the addresses and replies made upon the occasions of reception of its members. How shall academic dignity and right be supported if the discourses of the Prince Louis NAPOLEON presume to take the name of liberty with M. Montalembert's discourses, when proposed to be printed in pamphlet form, that they did with the newspaper copies? A knotty question then. It is said that, apprehending an unfavorable solution, the learned body mean to adjourn indefinitely the publication.

The Academy of Sciences has just elected a member to supply the place of M. MARIETTE, a free academician, deceased. The chief candidates were M. DELESSANT and CHARLES BONAPARTE, Prince of Canino, ex-President of the Roman Constituent Assembly. After several ballots, M. Delessant was elected by a vote of 57, against 24 votes given to the Prince of Canino.

State executions are the order of the day just now upon the continent. In Spain they have just executed a regicide. In Rome, ex-revolutionists, charged with the death of the priest of St. Callistus, have been executed. In Austria, two ministers of Kossuth and the London refugees were executed on the 6th instant in Vienna. The sufferers were PRINCE (called *Pataki*), formerly fiscal advocate of Pesth, and JULES GÖLLI, former aide-de-camp of Gen. Bax. They were put to death by hanging. In France we have a popular liberty put to death almost weekly: the crime, as in the Austrian cases just disposed of, is high treason, hostility to the actual Government.

We learn from Rome that the famous SILVIO PELlico, librarian to Madame the Marchioness FALCETTI di Barolo, has just led lady to the altar.

The Prince President is sensibly relaxing in severity against republicans concerned in the insurrectionary movements of December last. Many, if not all, of the representatives intended for Cayenne have been released and simply banished from France. Political offenders not released will, it is thought, be sent to Africa. This is well on his part.

I extract from the annals of foreign commerce, published by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce at St. Petersburg, the following notice of the culture of cotton in Caucasia. This is ever a subject of interest to your Southern readers:

Cotton is one of the most important productions which Russia is likely to receive from Transcaucasia. Up to 1850 she had imported from foreign countries only about 25,000 pounds (about 9,000,000 pounds) but in 1850 the importation had increased to over 1,000,000 pounds (or 36,000,000 pounds). These figures show the increasing magnitude of the cotton interest in Russia, and it is interesting to know that so important a staple can be cultivated to a considerable extent in Transcaucasia.

This, however, is no new discovery, for cotton has been grown in the province of Armenia for a long period; though the Armenian cotton has generally been of a very short staple and poor quality. The production at present is about 150,000 pounds (4,685,000 pounds), and this is mostly used in the country for spinning, and in the manufacture of *serdaks*.

In 1855 Baron ROSES, commander-in-chief of the country, introduced some cotton seed from Egypt. The first trials of it, however, were not continued; but in 1846 Prince WOLIKOFF, Lieutenant of Caucasus, ordered more seed, not only from Egypt, but from Malta and Bourbon. Shortly after this (in 1847) new plantations were established in four villages near the Kiow, and the cotton produced was in no way inferior to that of Egypt. The average crop was sixteen to twenty pounds (say 576 to 720 pounds) per *desiatine* (a *desiatine* being about 21 acres), and it was worth at Moscow about 72 rubles silver (\$67.76 per pound).

Nevertheless, these four villages raise only about 500 pounds (18,000 pounds) for local consumption. It has been calculated that a pound (36 pounds) could be raised and delivered in Moscow for from 3 rubles 4 cop. to 4 rubles (from \$3.00 to \$3.86), and could be sold there for from 6 to 7 rubles.

To extend this business, and to raise from the first year 2,000 pounds (72,000 pounds) of cotton, it will be necessary to have a hundred *desiatines* of land (about 275 acres) near the Kiow or the Soucha, and a capital of 15,000 rubles.

In Transcaucasia there are more than 400,000 *desiatines* (1,100,000 acres) of land suited to the culture of cotton, and it should be remarked that six sixth part of this quantity would be sufficient to supply the whole cotton demand of Russia.

MAJOR GENERAL SIR CHARLES JAMES NAPIER.—A friend has communicated to us a remarkable episode in this gallant officer's personal history